

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1911.

COLLEGE-BRED MEN IN POLITICS.

On occasion the New York World can be a "sarcastical" one, as, for instance, in its treatment of the ratification meeting, so to say, of the Inter-collegiate City League at a dinner given the other night at the University Club in New York City. There were many speeches, and all of them were good, of course, but nothing better was said during the evening than this: "The honest and intelligent young men of this country should go into the political machines and see that they work right, instead of leaving them to the manipulation of thugs."

That is a noble sentiment, and ought to be with patriotic enthusiasm every college-bred man in the country, and particularly those who have enjoyed the great advantages of a university course. It immediately "got next" to "The World," which points with pride to what the college-bred men of New York have accomplished in taking the manipulation of things out of the hands of thugs, especially in the management of the affairs of the Republican party. "The pioneer in this reform movement," we are assured, "was Thomas C. Platt (Yale A. M., '76), who was ably assisted from time to time by Chauncey M. Depew (Yale '66, LL. D. '85)." Then Mr. Platt was followed in carrying out the beneficent purposes of this college-bred control by Benjamin Odell, Jr., who went to Columbia, but didn't finish his course (he might have done better if he had taken the whole course), and he, in turn, or at times, by Theodore Roosevelt (Harvard '89), Timothy L. Woodruff (Yale '79), Ellihu Root (Hamilton '64), on down to E. P. Prentice (Princeton '85).

That surely is a noble army of reformers, and "they did it so politely," and with such ejaculations to Heaven of their high ideals and personal purity and educated tastes that thousands of innocents flocked to their standards, feeling themselves very fortunate to be esteemed worthy of association with the true, the beautiful and the good. Think of how much New York must be indebted to the educated methods of the late Senator Platt and the college-bred satellites which revolved in his orbit. Picture the wholly undone political condition of that great State had not Chauncey Depew, with his pious training at Yale, his almost exaggerated conception of the doctrine of meum and tuum, refrained from taking part in the political life of the community in which he lived. Is it any wonder that The World should celebrate the occasion and rejoice, even in a backhanded sort of way, that "we have had a continuous college administration of the Republican party in New York for many years," and that, "thanks to the influence of the college graduate, we have passed far beyond the evil days when the machine was left to the manipulation of thugs."

Now, there is Murphy, who received only a common school education. Think of what he might have been able to do with a college education in the way of instituting reform methods after the manner adopted by the late Mr. Platt and followed so closely by his college-bred Republican successors, acting in good faith with the high ideals taught by that eminent exponent of the theory that college-bred men should see that the political machines work right.

THERE AND HERE.

Those interested in a city library for Richmond will find some pertinent information in the annual report of the Birmingham Public Library, which makes a gratifying and surprising showing when the fact is considered that this is the case of the second year of the existence of a free public library in the Alabama metropolis.

Two years ago Birmingham put in the city hall a collection of books which was used as a subscription library. This library had two hundred and nine registered borrowers, with the maximum daily circulation of sixteen volumes. There was one librarian, untrained. The books were neither catalogued nor classified.

Now, Birmingham has a free public library organized and administered by exactly the same system as that used in all progressive cities. The book collection has been greatly enlarged by the efforts of a few private citizens. The space devoted to library purposes has been tripled. All the workers employed have received special library training.

The report for this year shows 8,255 registered borrowers as against 209 two years ago; a maximum daily issue of 580 volumes from the main library, as against 16 at the opening, with a maximum daily issue of 89 from the Woodlawn branch and 90 from the Easley branch—the circulation for the year being 124,259 volumes.

The Birmingham News says that "to the Birmingham Board of Education and to a half-dozen local and determined citizens is due the phenomenal success of an institution which has had the odds against it from the beginning."

As our contemporary points out, the moral of the situation is that the city should give its library an adequate appropriation, and that there should be erected in the near future a suitable library building.

What has been accomplished in Birmingham in so short a period serves to indicate what would be the case in Richmond if we had a city library in a comfortable building. The people have used and appreciated a public library in Birmingham; the people of Richmond would use and appreciate one here.

ANOTHER BRYAN QUESTION.

The Catechism recently sent to the Democratic candidates for President having attracted practically no attention—only Governor Marshall, of Indiana, having attempted to answer the questions—"The Commoner now asks in black type, on the first page of its current number, 'Why the Secret Caucus?'" This is followed by the oracular statement that "if the Democratic members of the House do not submit to secret caucuses on public affairs there would be no doubt concerning any of their proceedings," which is to say that Mr. Bryan would not have misrepresented Mr. Underwood and caused that distinguished gentleman to denounce him in the House of Representatives as a deliberate falsifier. The Commoner continues in the sort of type Clark Howell always uses when he wants to be emphatic in his editorial utterances.

"Why should any Democratic member submit to the secret caucus business which these men have to do to be transacted in the open, so that their constituents may be able to fix responsibility for all that they do and for all that they fail to do?"

The secret caucus is one of the worst foes of popular government. If you are opposed to it, write your member of Congress and urge him to protest against it.

The caucus has been "a well recognized and widely established feature of the American political system" since the foundation of our Government, and it is in the very nature of things a necessary factor in successful party machinery. To say that the secrecy of the caucus should be abandoned is to argue that the caucus itself should be destroyed, and that in the determination of all questions of party policy the individual members of the party should go it blind, and by exposing their plans to the enemy, provide for their own defeat. Every time Mr. Bryan goes to Washington, and wherever he goes, and his friends and intimates get together, there is always a caucus about the state of the country and how our liberties can be conserved by the adoption of the plans he is continually exuding for the good of the party and the preservation of the rights of the People. What he talks to them about and what they say to him relates to "the public business," and yet the public is not taken into their councils or their confidence. We do not object to their method of discussing public issues and selecting public candidates, and would not deprive them of the privilege of debating in their secret caucuses whatever paramount issues they may have in stock.

What a dishonest thing it is for Mr. Bryan to object now to the secret caucusing of the Democrats in Washington on the questions of legislation and Democratic policy with which they must deal, and what a stupid thing it would be for them to hold their caucuses in public! Instead of admitting that he grossly misrepresented the leader of the Democratic majority in the House, the present demand of Mr. Bryan that he would not have done so if the caucus had not been secret is wholly discreditable to him and his sense of fair play. To advise the Democratic voters of the country to write to their representatives in Congress protesting against the secret party caucus shows that Mr. Bryan's power of mischief has not been exhausted. It would be far more to the point and distinctly to the advantage of the party if they should advise their representatives to keep Mr. Bryan on the outside, it having been demonstrated at the present session of Congress that the only way for the Democrats to accomplish any substantial work is by refusing his leadership.

LUCKY JACK GERAGHTY.

Julia French says that she is entirely happy with her husband, Jack Geraghty, and in an interview with a correspondent of the New York World, at Springfield, Massachusetts, where she is now visiting Jack's relatives, the Harbises, she put this poser to those who have been protesting that she should not have run off and married the man she loves:

"What is one to say of society that smiles upon the marriage of Madeline Force and Colonel John A. Fawcett upon my marriage with the man I really love? I am sure I haven't command of words sufficient to express my opinion."

Mrs. Geraghty's parents ought to be proud of a daughter like that, and, again, we wish her long life and happiness and nerve enough to hold fast to her chauffeur. He will make her a good husband, if she will only stick to him through thick and thin. One of the reasons that she first admired Jack Geraghty is that he is a real man and altogether unlike the male creatures in her own set. "Real men," said Mrs. Geraghty, "are a rarity among those I know. In general, the masculine mind, as I had to observe it, was empty, or else so filled with schemes of money as to be thick and

thin for sociability. And as to the women"—phew! hear this daughter of the Plantagenets—"and as to the women, they are superficial and heartless, dividing their ambitions among pretty frocks, jewels, rich husbands and lavish entertainments. I am not very old, but I knew long ago that such a life would never do for me."

There, now; and again, long life to you, Mrs. Julia Estelle French-Geraghty, and increasing happiness every day, and all the pretty frocks you want, and above all, the constant love of the man of your choice. We take it from his patronymic that he is an Irishman, and there is no love like the love of the true, honest Irishman, and no virtue like the virtue of the Irish people. God bless Ireland!

ALAS!

"The hostile papers" having reported that "Mr. Bryan has not a friend left in Congress." The Commoner, which can now be had for two years for the price of one, says with tears in its voice:

"His labors, covering a period of twenty years, have been in vain if a revengeful speech of one man can break all the ties that have been formed during two congressional terms and three presidential campaigns."

We should think so, indeed, and our heart is profoundly touched by the infinite pathos of this statement. There must be some mistake unless it be true that political parties are as ungrateful as republics.

WHAT VIRGINIA IS DOING.

Two very interesting and encouraging reports have just been issued by the authorities at Washington, showing that Virginia is making most substantial progress in the material things which will make this Commonwealth prosperous and great. According to Director Durand, of the Census Bureau, the aggregate value of all domestic animals, poultry and bees in Virginia in 1910 was \$72,324,000 as compared with \$42,927,000 in 1900, the increase exceeding \$32,797,000, and the rate 78 per cent. In 1900 the total value of all domestic animals in this State was \$39,832,000; in 1910 their value was \$71,126,000—an increase of \$31,294,000, or 78.6 per cent. In 1900 the poultry in Virginia was valued at \$1,887,000; in 1910 it was valued at \$3,296,000—a gain of \$1,509,000, or 80 per cent.

There was a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the value of bees in the last decade, we are sorry to say; but this is accounted for by the fact, probably, that the people have been so busy raising chickens and horses and mules and hogs and sheep that they could find no time for apiculture. There was an increase of 127.2 per cent. in the value of horses and colts in the ten years covered by the Census, an increase of 25.3 per cent. in the value of cattle; an increase of 158 per cent. in the value of mules and mule colts; an increase of 61.3 per cent. in the value of swine; an increase of 57.6 per cent. in the value of sheep and lambs; an increase of 132.9 per cent. in the value of asses and burros; an increase of 182.3 per cent. in the value of goats and kids. In 1910 there were \$58,135 cattle in the State, \$30,135 horses and colts, 59,585 mules of all ages, 796,730 hogs, 893,552 sheep and lambs, and 6,095,581 chickens and other fowls, all hatched with a full equipment of white meat.

The second report that has come out of Washington was made by the United States Geological Survey, and relates to the marvelous development of the immensely valuable coal areas in this State. Last year the total output of the min. in Virginia amounted to 6,507,997 short tons, worth in spot cash \$6,877,456. Says Edward W. Parker, coal statistician of the Geological Survey:

"Virginia established two new records in the statistics of her coal production in 1910; first, in quality of coal produced (6,507,997 short tons), and second, in the amount and percentage of increase over the preceding year. The production in 1909, 4,752,217 short tons, was the highest in previous records, but this was beaten in 1910 by the unprecedented increase of 1,755,780 tons, nearly 37 per cent. The value increased \$1,626,430, or 38 per cent., from \$4,251,026 to \$5,877,456. Virginia stands well up among the States in the quantity of coal produced for each man employed. In 1910 the number of men employed was 7,264, who worked an average of 241 days. The average production per man was 896 tons for the year, and 3.72 tons for each day. Both of these averages are better than those shown in the majority of the coal producing States. Most of the miners in the State work ten hours a day. Of the 7,264 men employed in 1910, 5,710 worked ten hours, and 1,554 worked nine hours. Only one mine was reported as working eight hours."

"To Virginia belongs the distinction of having produced the first bituminous coal mined in the United States. This initial output, however, was not derived from that portion of the State which now gives Virginia some prominence as a producer of coal, but was obtained from what is generally known as the Richmond basin, a small area near the city of Richmond. The existence of coal in the Richmond basin was known as early as 1700, though mining did not begin until the latter part of the century. In 1789 shipments were made to some of the Northern States. In 1822, according to R. C. Taylor, in his 'Statistics of Coal,' the production amounted to 64,000 short tons. For nearly a century the Richmond basin maintained some prominence as a coal producer, but when, in 1882, the Pocahontas district was opened up, and especially when, in West Virginia, was developed, the mines in the Richmond basin were put at a disadvantage and operations in them were for a number of years practically suspended."

This, however, is only a part of the story that will be told by the special reports of the Census as they unfold their slow length until the next ten years has built up another and even more startling record of achievement in all the things that make a State great. Some of the smaller States have kept ahead of Virginia in

agricultural development and in the enhancement of farm values; but there will be an entirely different story to be told when the next Census is made up. We should not be satisfied with what has been accomplished in the last decade if it did not show that we are just beginning to find ourselves in Virginia.

LIFE.

[Selected for The Times-Dispatch.]
 "Because that hath the Son, hath life.—1 John, v. 12."
 He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, is passed from death unto life.—John, v. 24.

Life was Christ's favorite word. Life was what He was always praising and promising. Life was the test by which He tried all the powers that He met with. If they nourished and increased life, they were good; if they injured and decreased it, they were bad. Life was His own claim and credential. That He gave man life from death was the burden of His self-assertion. He was divine; He was eternal; all vitality was at its perfection in Him, infinite, imperishable. We should have to be something like Him, catch something of His feeling about the beauty and gloriousness of life, before we could feel the horror which He constantly sums up into that word death as the mere negative of life. But this we can do, we can feel how one great difference between Jesus and most of the other teachers who have bidden men abstain from sin is that while they decried because it brought pain, or because it hurt other people, or because it destroyed order, or because it was unlovely, Christ is supreme in this idea, which runs through every word He speaks—that sin is dreadful because it is death, because it is so much cut out of the world's and the man's vitality, because it is destruction of the very essence of manhood, because, to do wrong as a man is, in so far, to cease to live as a man. That is Christ's idea. That is what He is always insisting upon when He calls goodness life and wickedness death. That was the reason why, from the heights of His divinity, and thrilling with the consciousness of immortality, He hated wickedness and loved goodness as no other being ever has, and why He was willing to die in what we call death, if thereby He could save men from that wickedness which was the death He really dreaded for them.

It is hard to overestimate the change that would come to us and our way of looking at life if we got thoroughly into the idea which it would seem to be beyond all question Christ's idea, and is involved in the use of the words life and death. What does He mean when He calls goodness life and wickedness death? Is it a hard and barren statement that life is the consequence of goodness and death is the consequence of sin, that God means to kill the wicked and save the good alive? "Goodness is life," says Jesus; "wickedness is death." Must He not mean that the essence, the primary idea, the deepest meaning of human life is goodness? That was what God made man for. That is His essential existence. It is not to be good, then—to be wicked—is to fall of this essential existence; it is not to live, it is to die. "The soul that sinneth it shall die"—is that a threat? Is it not the deep utterance of a truth? Indeed, there cannot be a threat that is not the deep utterance of a truth for no man can permanently suffer except by the eternal necessities of things—not by whim, but by law. Is it not, then, as if it said: "The soul that sinneth dies, dies in its sinning, dies because for a soul there is no life but holiness"? As a stream that flows no longer ceases to be a stream, as the sun that shines no longer is no longer a sun, as the tree that buds and blooms no more is no more a tree, so the man who has ceased to be good has ceased to be a man; just so far as he has ceased to be good, he has ceased to be a man.

We write upon the pages of our copy books: "To err is human." It has a truth in it, but it is a superficial truth. It means that the habit of humanity is to err. Christ comes and says: "To do right is human," declaring the profound truth. He means that the purpose and nature of humanity is to do right, and that it is to fail of that purpose. That is what it surely means when He calls sin death. It was the same truth that His incarnation uttered, put into words which were continually upon the lips of the incarnate.

It is good to turn the truth the other way for a moment, and see what it can teach us. "To sin is just so far to cease to live," we said, catching Christ's idea. May we not also say: "To cease to live is just so far to sin"? There are a multitude of useless lives around us of which, when we are asked: "Are such lives wicked?" we reply: "O, no; they do no harm." We cannot say that they do any good, indeed. They are self-indulgent; they have no enterprise; they have but very little real vitality of brain or heart, or even of body. We rather hesitate when we are asked to call them good lives; but no, they are not wicked, certainly.

But, in the light of what Christ teaches about the connection of vitality and goodness, they are wicked. Do you remember, in the parable, it is not for a misused, but a disused talent that the poor servant is cast into outer darkness? The young man who has refused to use his brain about anything, and so stands to-day without a single intelligent opinion about those things that are of eternal consequence—the man who does no duty because he has taught other men and himself to look upon him as an unenterprising good-natured mortal to whom they are to bring no duties—the creature who sometimes ventures to demand our respect for the very qualities which make him contemptible, who is conservative because radicalism is troublesome and calm because enthusiasm is a bore—all these, when we see them as Christ sees them, we shall know are wicked men. The lazy and labor-saving saint is a sinner. The man who is not vitally good, but bad, for he is shutting his heart against the work of Him who came that men might have life.

God teach us to be alive in the first condition of being good! Just how many "highballs"—what-ever they are—a man can take and stay sober came up before a bench

of three magistrates the other day in New York. A man named Weed had been arrested on a charge of being drunk. He denied the charge, and said that he was as sober as a judge at the time he was arrested. "What had you been drinking?" he was asked. "Highballs," he answered. "And how many had you taken?" "Only six, upon my word of honor." There was argument on one side and on the other, and then the presiding magistrate said: "Discharged! Six highballs won't make a strong, healthy man drunk!"

Many years ago Charles A. Dana, of the New York Sun, said in his paper after a tour through the South that there was a decreasing number of pale faces among the blacks, and now comes the New Orleans correspondent of The Sun with the statement that "Louisiana is whitening fast," the Census of 1910 showing that there is a white majority in that State of 150,000. The segregation of the races has had the effect of "putting a stop to any further intermingling of blood," with the result that "the average negro of Louisiana to-day, and especially in New Orleans, is much darker than of old."

Up to the hour of going to press, the work of improving the Cary Street Road, for which an appropriation of \$5,000, made by City Council some time ago, had not begun. It is understood that the work is waiting on Commissioner Harman.

To "Students of Biography": you may get all desired information about the Hon. Bogus S. Tomcock from Judge R. T. W. Duke, of Charlottesville, who will be glad to furnish you with full details.

It was an indescribable outrage that at the banquet of the Virginia State Bar Association Judge Charles F. Moore, of New York, referred to suffragettes as "self-made men."

There is talk now of asking John Jacob Astor to resign as a vestryman of Trinity Parish, if he is a member of that vestry.

Voice of the People

The Newspapers and Their Critics. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—A little drubbing of the newspapers and then is often wholehearted and effective, and really better appreciated by the editors as pointers, and as indicative of the tastes of their patrons and readers.

So, for the sake of the cause, and the fact that the papers are amply able to take care of themselves, I shall not attempt their defense, in fact I do not intend to write a short time ago to write a note of protest to one of our city papers against the publication of certain details connected with the case of John A. Fawcett, which appeared to me to be entirely unnecessary and not tending to good morals. I regret, however, that some of your critics have departed quite a long way from their own counsel and have used words and epithets, the use or reading of which I would regard as grossly improper, and the very circles whose purity they so properly advocate, and which I do not for a moment believe you would use in one of your own articles.

I have read all these protests relative to the publication of certain pictures, and I have felt a pang of regret that almost all of them have been couched in such harsh language, and have wondered if the writers, some of them, had not been under the influence of the divine injunction to "let our moderation be known to all men."

And, then, again, as I have thought of the friends of the girl who has been so harshly spoken of even by some of Christ's ministers, my mind has reverted to that incident recorded in the chapter of John 8, and there will be less danger from now on of his reverend fathers, and of his being compelled to resume the thorny path of penitence. In fact his throne will be come in this way placed just as much under the protection of the czar as that of King Nicholas of Russia, who had it not been for Russia's backing, would long ere this have been taken by Austria, and account of the trouble which it has constantly been giving to that power for the past thirty years. Princess Helen is twenty-seven years of age, and since her father became King of Serbia, has divided her time between Belgrade, Rome, and Italy, where she has home for several months each year, with her sister, Queen Helen of Italy. Indeed, it is the royal Italian Castle of Racconigi, in Piedmont, that the princess's official betrothal has taken place.

Princess Helen's fiancé is Prince John Constantinovich, eldest son of the Grand Duke Constantin Constantinovich, who has been frequently described in these letters as the son of the house of Romanoff, as the translator of most of Shakespeare's works in Russia, and as president of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Russia. Prince John is just a year the junior of his bride-to-be, and is a stalwart young subaltern in the regiment of Cevalier Gardes de l'Imperatrice at Petersburg. As he represents the fourth

generation of descent from the throne, he does not enjoy the title of Grand Duke, nor yet the predicate of Imperial Highness, having to content himself with that of mere "His Imperial Highness." He is of the same faith as his future husband, and they will make a handsome couple, and will make a handsome Alexandra Josefovna, who died the other day, was the young prince's grandmother, and he is a great-grandson of Emperor Nicholas I.

In its obituary of the late Duchess of Devonshire, has confessed itself unable to give any definite information with regard to her age, and that all the other English papers are similarly at sea about the matter. It may be as well to state here that she was born at Hanover, on January 15, 1827, which would make her seventy-nine years and eight months old at the time of her demise. She was married, like her father, to the seventh Duke of Manchester, when she was twenty years of age. Probably not even her nearest friends in England are aware of the fact that she has two sisters, the younger one of them rejecting in her somewhat unusual Christian name of Goudon, and who has been once widowed and twice divorced; on the last occasion from Prince Colonna, of the Sicilian branch, of which the Duke of Devonshire, who was Prince Ferdinand Colonna, was chief. She makes her home at San Remo, while her other surviving sister, Julia, who was the wife of the Duke of Devonshire, was principal of the last occasion from Prince Colonna, of the Sicilian branch, of which the Duke of Devonshire, who was Prince Ferdinand Colonna, was chief. She makes her home at San Remo, while her other surviving sister, Julia, who was the wife of the Duke of Devonshire, was principal of the last occasion from Prince Colonna, of the Sicilian branch, of which the Duke of Devonshire, who was Prince Ferdinand Colonna, was chief. She makes her home at San Remo, while her other surviving sister, Julia, who was the wife of the Duke of Devonshire, was principal of the last occasion from Prince Colonna, of the Sicilian branch, of which the Duke of Devonshire, who was Prince Ferdinand Colonna, was chief.

At length the boycott to which King Peter has been subjected by the foreign courts since his accession to the blood-stained throne of Serbia, is drawing to a close. For Emperor Nicholas has given his consent to the betrothal of a son of his, the reigning house of Russia, to King Peter's only daughter, Princess Helen, a great extent at St. Petersburg, to a mother's sisters, the Grand Duchesses Stana and Miliza of Russia.

By the securing the honor of a matrimonial alliance with the sovereign house of Russia for his daughter, Princess Helen, King Peter has virtually assured the future existence of his dynasty in Serbia, and there will be less danger from now on of his reverend fathers, and of his being compelled to resume the thorny path of penitence. In fact his throne will be come in this way placed just as much under the protection of the czar as that of King Nicholas of Russia, who had it not been for Russia's backing, would long ere this have been taken by Austria, and account of the trouble which it has constantly been giving to that power for the past thirty years. Princess Helen is twenty-seven years of age, and since her father became King of Serbia, has divided her time between Belgrade, Rome, and Italy, where she has home for several months each year, with her sister, Queen Helen of Italy. Indeed, it is the royal Italian Castle of Racconigi, in Piedmont, that the princess's official betrothal has taken place.

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Daily Queries and Answers

"Lieutenant" and "Leftenant." Will "Lieutenant" be pronounced in the British army and navy? Is it pronounced the same in both branches of the service?
 M. J.
 It is pronounced "leftenant" in both army and navy.

Rockefeller and Carnegie at Home. Please let me know the address of John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie.
 ANXIOUS.
 John D. Rockefeller; homes: Tarrytown, N. Y.; Cleveland, O.; 4 West Fifty-fourth Street, New York; office, 26 Broadway, N. Y.
 Andrew Carnegie; 2 East Ninety-first Street, New York.

Hammond and the Boers. Was it right in John Hays Hammond to take part in the Jameson raid? If not, was it to satisfy the desire of

many influential Englishmen to reward him for his treachery to the Boer republic that he was chosen to represent the American republic at the coronation of King George?
 C. T.
 The appointment of John Hays Hammond has nothing to do with his actions in South Africa. He was selected as a distinguished American citizen, eminently qualified to represent his country on an important and dignified occasion.

Auto Records. Did Bob Burman ever break any auto speed record in Philadelphia? R.
 Bob Burman broke the local track record at Point Breeze, Philadelphia, on July 29, 1911, establishing a new record of 53.45 seconds for the mile. The previous record, made by Barney Oldfield, in August, 1910, was 59.25 seconds.

PRETENDER'S CLAIMS SURELY FRAUDULENT

BY LA MARQUESE DE PONTENAY. BARONESS MARIE VETZERA, who died in the Crown Prince Rudolf, at Meyerling, on January 29, 1889, left no child born of her infatuation for the only son of the Emperor and Empress of Austria. This is a matter of such common and positive knowledge, to everybody of any standing in the Viennese society, and in the Austrian and German world, that it is difficult to understand how any woman can have been accepted on this side of the water as the natural daughter of the ill-fated crown prince and of Baroness Marie Vetzera.

Yet there is a person who, styling herself Alma Vetzera, married three years ago George Osborne Hayne, who is now seeking to divorce her in the courts of the State of New York, naming as co-respondent Justin B. McDougald, son of a wealthy Cobalt mine owner, making his home at Montreal. Two young fellows, father, objecting to his son's infatuation, which he regarded as crazy, had him committed to a lunatic asylum near Montreal, conducted by Belgian priests, and within Mrs. Vetzera Hayne had the incredible impudence to bring habeas corpus proceedings in the Canadian courts to secure the liberation of the young fellow, who, her application was defeated on several grounds, one of which was the fact that the lad was still a minor.

It would be interesting to learn whether the woman described herself as "Alma Vetzera" in the affidavits which she presented to the Canadian courts, in applying for the writ of habeas corpus, and whether she made any mention of her alleged parentage, since in that case she would render herself liable to a criminal prosecution for perjury. I would likewise recommend George Osborne Hayne, who is seeking to divorce her in the State of New York, to make quite sure that she really assumed the name under which she married, and that the parentage which she gave in the certificate and in the marriage license was really that of the crown prince and of the late Empress of Austria, and that I knew not of her crown prince Rudolf, but also because the lad was thoroughly acquainted with all his family sorrows and troubles.

At length the boycott to which King Peter has been subjected by the foreign courts since his accession to the blood-stained throne of Serbia, is drawing to a close. For Emperor Nicholas has given his consent to the betrothal of a son of his, the reigning house of Russia, to King Peter's only daughter, Princess Helen, a great extent at St. Petersburg, to a mother's sisters, the Grand Duchesses Stana and Miliza of Russia.

By the securing the honor of a matrimonial alliance with the sovereign house of Russia for his daughter, Princess Helen, King Peter has virtually assured the future existence of his dynasty in Serbia, and there will be less danger from now on of his reverend fathers, and of his being compelled to resume the thorny path of penitence. In fact his throne will be come in this way placed just as much under the protection of the czar as that of King Nicholas of Russia, who had it not been for Russia's backing, would long ere this have been taken by Austria, and account of the trouble which it has constantly been giving to that power for the past thirty years. Princess Helen is twenty-seven years of age, and since her father became King of Serbia, has divided her time between Belgrade, Rome, and Italy, where she has home for several months each year, with her sister, Queen Helen of Italy. Indeed, it is the royal Italian Castle of Racconigi, in Piedmont, that the princess's official betrothal has taken place.

Princess Helen's fiancé is Prince John Constantinovich, eldest son of the Grand Duke Constantin Constantinovich, who has been frequently described in these letters as the son of the house of Romanoff, as the translator of most of Shakespeare's works in Russia, and as president of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Russia. Prince John is just a year the junior of his bride-to-be, and is a stalwart young subaltern in the regiment of Cevalier Gardes de l'Imperatrice at Petersburg. As he represents the fourth

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generation of descent from the throne, he does not enjoy the title of Grand Duke, nor yet the predicate of Imperial Highness, having to content himself with that of mere "His Imperial Highness." He is of the same faith as his future husband, and they will make a handsome couple, and will make a handsome Alexandra Josefovna, who died the other day, was the young prince's grandmother, and he is a great-grandson of Emperor Nicholas I.

In its obituary of the late Duchess of Devonshire, has confessed itself unable to give any definite information with regard to her age, and that all the other English papers are similarly at sea about the matter. It may be as well to state here that she was born at Hanover, on January 15, 1827, which would make her seventy-nine years and eight months old at the time of her demise. She was married, like her father, to the seventh Duke of Manchester, when she was twenty years of age. Probably not even her nearest friends in England are aware of the fact that she has two sisters, the younger one of them rejecting in her somewhat unusual Christian name of Goudon, and who has been once widowed and twice divorced; on the last occasion from Prince Colonna, of the Sicilian branch, of which the Duke of Devonshire, who was Prince Ferdinand Colonna, was chief. She makes her home at San Remo, while her other surviving sister, Julia, who was the wife of the Duke of Devonshire, was principal of the last occasion from Prince Colonna, of the Sicilian branch, of which the Duke of Devonshire, who was Prince Ferdinand Colonna, was chief.

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